

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

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DRC-01 /099 W

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R 231235Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6264

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PINT, PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: PARTY PLENUMS ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ECONOMY

REF: PRAGUE 1083

1. "RUDE PRAVO" MAY 22 FINALLY PUBLISHED EXTENDED ACCOUNT OF HUSAK'S MAY 15 CLOSING REMARKS AT CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM (REFTEL). IN LINE WITH KEMPNY'S REPORT TO PLENUM, HUSAK WARNED OF NEED TO TAKE "VERY SHARP VIEW" OF SHORTCOMINGS IN R&D AND PRODUCTION. AT SAME TIME HE NOTED THAT FIRST THREE YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS OF 1971-75 PLAN HAD BEEN OVER-FULFILLED, CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS STEADY UPWARD TREND IN ECONOMY, AND SAID THAT THERE CONTINUED TO BE GOOD CHANCES FOR GOOD AND STABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMY. HUSAK WAS NOT, HOWEVER, REPORTED AS EXPRESSING ANY CERTAINTY THAT CURRENT PLAN WOULD BE FULFILLED.

2. HUSAK WAS MORE POSITIVE IN DESCRIBING RESULTS OF MASS POLITICAL WORK, WHICH HE CALLED "REMARKABLE". HE EXPRESSED SPECIAL PLEASURE OVER FACT THAT OF 160,000 NEW PARTY MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES SINCE 14TH CONGRESS, PRODUCTION  
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WORKERS MADE UP OVER 60 PERCENT AND YOUNG OR YOUNGER PEOPLE

90 PERCENT OF TOTAL. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT VARIOUS "PREJUDICES" WERE AT PLAY IN CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY, THAT FOREIGN PROPAGANDA WAS SPREADING FABRICATIONS (PERHAPS A PARTIAL ALLUSION TO RECENT RUMORS OF PRICE RISES AND/OR CURRENCY CONVERSION), AND THAT THERE WERE SOME (UNIDENTIFIED) WAVERING PEOPLE HERE BEING FOCUSED ON BY INFORMATION CENTERS ABROAD.

3. ALL IN ALL, HUSAK (AND PLENUM AS WHOLE) TOOK TONE WHICH, MODERATELY CONFIDENT BUT FAR LESS THAN TRIUMPHANT, CONTINUED LINE TAKEN IN UNATTRIBUTED APRIL 17 FULL-PAGE "RUDE PROVA" PIECE MARKING FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS COMING TO POWER (PRAGUE 858).

4. SLOVAK CENTRAL COMMITTEE MAY 22 BEGAN USUAL PLENUM FOLLOWING ON KSC PLENUM. ACCORDING TO INITIAL ACCOUNTS, MAIN REPORT GIVEN BY HRUSKOVIC FOLLOWED LINE TAKEN IN KSC PLENUM, WITH EMPHASIS ON SLOVAKIA'S TECHNOLOGICAL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1948 AT RATE HIGHER THAN FOR COUNTRY AS WHOLE.

5. WE REPORTED IN APRIL (PRAGUE 696) THAT WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT SOVIET SPECIALIST WOULD BE WAITING ON OUTCOME OF CZECHOSLOVAK PLENUM IN HOPES THAT IT WOULD PRODUCE SOME ADVANCE IN MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY THAT THEY COULD CITE AT HOME AS USEFUL PRECEDENT. IN THIS REGARD WE NOTE REPORT IN MOSCOW 7712 THAT SOVIETS ARE PLANNING PLENUM ON MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES, AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL REFORMS. THESE WERE MAIN THEMES OF LAST WEEK'S CZECHOSLOVAK PLENUM, BUT ON BASIS INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE WE QUESTION WHETHER SOVIET REFORMERS CAN FIND MUCH IN PRAGUE PROCEEDINGS TO ADVANCE THEIR CAUSE AT HOME.  
WORTZEL

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